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Examiner: Unassigned

Atty. Docket: GEMS:0096/FLE
31-CD-5622

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Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a), Applicant respectfully requests that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and that the listed references be considered by the Examiner and made of record. Copies of the listed references are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

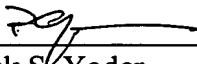
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, as an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b), or as a representation that no other possibly material information, as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b), exists.

Furthermore, the references listed on the attached Form 1449 are not to be construed as an admission that these references qualify as prior art as to the above-referenced application or any related application. Rather, these references are being presented for the Examiner's consideration without prejudice to Applicants' right to demonstrate that any of these references do not qualify as prior art should the Examiner choose to apply any of these references.

The following information is listed below in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98. Any explanation of non-English language documents contained in this Information Disclosure Statement is believed to constitute a concise explanation of the relevance of the listed reference as it is presently understood by the individual designated in § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the listed reference, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 29, 2000



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